

SENATOR HALL: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Again, that is substantively the same amendment that I withdrew before, at least the language is drafted a little more clearly, I think. Again, let me withdraw that and give people an opportunity to take a look at it and give some thought to it.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next item on the bill.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We're back to discussion of the motion to advance to E & R Engrossing, LR 6. Senator Dierks, followed by Senators Schimek, Bernard-Stevens and Beutler. Senator Dierks. Oh, excuse me, amendment was just offered. Mr. Clerk. Pardon me, Senator Dierks.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend, Mr. President. (Beutler amendment, AM1411, appears on page 1456 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment is short. It will be passed around to you in just a moment. But it essentially does one thing, it adds an additional provision to LR 6CA. And this goes back to a suggestion I made earlier that is probably best put in the constitution, if we want to do it. And that is the proposition of somehow effectively giving the Legislature the ability to offer alternative propositions to the electorate with respect to any petition for a change in the constitution that is put forward by any particular interest group or groups. And the mechanism by which the amendment does this is very simple. It changes in the constitution the requirement that the petition, the initiative petition be filed four months before the election, two, saying it shall be filed nine months before the election. It gives another five months, in other words that means that when the elections are in November that the petition fully flushed out with all the signatures on it would have to be filed sometime in the area of February or March. That means that on each and every occasion then the Legislature will have